



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER
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New Rules Help Connect South Dakota's Wind and Solar Power to the Grid

Utility Commission Adopts Interconnection Standard to Streamline Clean Energy Development

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved new state rules today to simplify the connection of wind turbines, solar panels, and other clean energy systems to the electric grid. The standards create a consistent statewide process for connecting smaller renewable energy projects and avoid the uncertainty and costs associated with the previous patchwork of regulations.

“The passage of these new interconnection rules shows that South Dakota is ready to take advantage of its clean energy potential,” said Matt McLarty, Policy Advocate for the Environmental Law & Policy Center in Sioux Falls. “The PUC has done an excellent job of creating interconnection standards that will encourage more South Dakota residents to profit from our state’s abundant wind and solar resources.”

The interconnection standards apply to small renewable energy projects such as wind turbines installed at a ranch or school or solar panels installed on a home or small business. The Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC) provided technical expertise and advice to the PUC since the rulemaking process began in 2007.

“I commend the Commission for listening to public input and creating good standards that will benefit consumers,” said Brad Klein, an attorney for the Environmental Law and Policy Center who worked closely with the PUC. “These rules will be good for farmers and homeowners, good for rural economic development, and good for the environment.”

ELPC has worked to put interconnection standards in place in several Midwestern states including Illinois, Iowa and Michigan, as part of its mission to create economic development and environmental progress together. The new rules must be approved by a legislative committee before becoming final.

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The Environmental Law and Policy Center is the Midwest's leading environmental legal advocacy and eco-business innovation organization. www.ELPC.org

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